

CITY OF REDMOND ARTS COMMISSION

MINUTES

October 14, 2004

Old Fire House Teen Center

“Voice the views of the community to Mayor and City Council in reference to all cultural endeavors”

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Phil Teller, Vice Chair Kay Tarapolsi, Jill Schmidt, Heidi Houghton, Latha Sambamurti, Roy Leban, Abbott Smith; youth advocates Nicole Rollofson and Julia Moreno

ABSENT AND EXCUSED: Katie Innes, Yvette Waters

STAFF PRESENT: Melna Skillingstead, Arts Administrator; Sandra Bettencourt, Recreation Program Manager; Pam Maybee, Recording Secretary

AUDIENCE PRESENT: William Ayers, Renee Tanner, Laura Lee Bennett

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AGENDA

Note: Bold/italic text denotes Staff and Commissioner follow-up resulting from this meeting.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Following a 6:30 p.m. tour of the Old Fire House Teen Center, Chairperson Phil Teller called to order the regular meeting of the Redmond Arts Commission (RAC) at 7:00 p.m. at the Teen Center Media Room.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Redmond Arts Commission (RAC) minutes of September 9, 2004 were approved with the following amendments:

- Page 3, second paragraph: Add the word “historical” before every word “photo” in that paragraph.

Motion for approval of the RAC minutes of September 9, 2004 as amended by:

Commissioner Schmidt

Second by: Commissioner Houghton

Motion carried: 7-0 unanimous

III. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

General RAC Business:

- Remove \$1.25 discussion (postponed to future meeting)
- Add Budget Report – Bettencourt
- Add Mayor's suggestions for RAC – Tarapolsi/Schmidt

Visual Arts:

- 2004 Annual Report (for 2005)

Arts Education:

- Staff Report: Diversity Workshop Funding – Michelle Alten

IV. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None

V. GENERAL RAC BUSINESS

A. Chair/Vice Chair

1. Vice Chair

During the Vice Chair's report Schmidt reported on her meeting with Mayor Ives, who suggested RAC consider the following:

- Schedule a team building retreat
 - So Commissioners can spend more time on topics
 - Hold team-building retreat either in January or February 2005
 - Answer questions of new people
 - Cover procedures
 - Possibly hold discussion regarding the other three topics discussed by the Mayor, which are:
- List of Annual Projects
- Internal list of procedures and chain of command
- What staff support does and does not cover

Schmidt will email Commissioners an example of an internal project list, using the Visual Arts Award's timeline, benchmark, budget, publicity, etc. Tarapolsi

suggested the different chairs could take each of their projects and begin working on preparation for the retreat.

Schmidt reported on her meeting with City Council:

- Budget topics were discussed: RAC purposes, citizen comments regarding dropping arts for a year to save on the budget.
- Information regarding going to City Council to request Skillingstead's salary be derived from the \$1.25 per capita budget instead of the RAC program budget.
 - Staff salary is an administrative decision (mayoral) that would be made by May 2005.
 - The \$1.25 budget is a City Council decision.
 - It would be helpful to have a list of what topics are under whose decision.
- A Presbyterian minister wants to build art into his new church building, possibly through partnerships.
 - Other churches may want to be used for galleries.

Schmidt reported on topics discussed with the Mayor:

- Hold a retreat to help new people get up to speed.
- Send no "negatives" in email.
- Provide an emphasis on chain of command.
- Discuss what staff support does and does not cover.
- Money and staff time are needed to do Art Outside the Box; however neither are currently available.

Schmidt noted an Operations Manual would include explanations on topics such as the above. *She offered to help Houghton put a manual together in an easy to read form. Houghton will work with Skillingstead on a retreat agenda.*

B. Continuing Business – Task List

Tarapolsi asked Commissioners to update the task list, and to give their volunteer hours/timesheets to Skillingstead.

C. 2005-06 \$1.25 Per Capita Funding Allocation – Discussion

Postponed.

D. 2005-06 \$1.25 per Capita Report

Bettencourt reported that Skillingstead is in the process of putting together the \$1.25 per capita budget. Due to a very tight budget, staff's recommendation to remove Skillingstead's salary out of the \$1.25 budget was not approved. Bettencourt informed RAC that, in their authorized role as a Commission, they may vocalize this need at the public hearings and emphasize that the \$1.25 per capita budget is not keeping up with the Commission's operational increases. With reduced funding, the \$1.25 budget is tight, which will require

the Commission to make some tough decisions in the upcoming 2005-06 program year. ***Teller will contact Bettencourt to get more information about going to City Council public hearings with the request as Chairperson and representative of RAC.***

E. Facilities Use by the Arts

Teller reported that *Free Monster Theatrical* (FMT), a non-profit organization who oversees Cirque du Flambé, is looking for new space to store their equipment. They are specifically looking at the City's surplus spaces. Teller recommended they speak with Danny Hopkins, Parks and Recreation Director and Tim Cox, Manager of Parks Planning to propose the idea. Kathy Gallagher, FMT, presented the proposal to Hopkins and Cox. As a result of their discussion two locations were considered: the barn at the Conrad Olson Farm or the NE 90th warehouse (this generated the most interest). FMT would pay maintenance and operation for the space, and would provide visual and performing arts for Redmond events (i.e., Redmond Lights, Derby Days, etc.).

Schmidt supported the idea, saying it would set a precedent for arts to use City buildings. She also noted the Sammamish Arts Commission could also have plans for Cirque du Flambé's performing arts. Teller noted that no decision was made yet; Hopkins and Cox would need to talk to the Mayor first.

Leban inquired of Teller as to why he went directly to City officials and not to RAC first. Teller responded that he did not know if a possibility existed within the City to serve FMT's purposes, thus he approached staff first. If staff was supportive and space was indeed available, then it would be presented to RAC for evaluation. Bettencourt noted that Teller had brought the upcoming need to the Commission sometime ago in the past. Leban stated that Teller could possibly have a conflict of interest since he had been involved with Cirque du Flambé in the past. Teller responded that he no longer was associated with them.

Leban asked whether or not granting space to the FMT would be the best use of City resources. He noted that many more proposals could come forward for this space/use, should it be made known to the arts community that the City is offering space under certain constraints. Schmidt responded that a precedent would be set, so any time a building became available it could be thought of later by City officials.

Teller reported that Cirque du Flambé want to move in January, specifically to Redmond, until a permanent location may be found. Leban did not see RAC having a purpose in influencing or evaluating this decision. He believed the actual decision should be RAC's to give to City Council and Mayor. Teller stated that RAC had introduced FMT to Parks; Leban countered that Teller personally did. Schmidt emphasized that RAC wants integration within the City, i.e., cooperation and partnerships.

Schmidt noted that perhaps a better route of communication in the future would be to send email to introduce ideas when they come in-between the meetings to be better prepared for general meeting discussion. Bettencourt clarified it was acceptable for arts organizations' ideas to come either way: directly to Hopkins (who would bring it to RAC), or directly to RAC.

F. RAC Operations Manual/Handbook Update

Schmidt will email a draft to Houghton explaining what she needs to do in making a handbook easy to read.

VI. Performing/Literary Arts

A. Project(s) Status

1. Literary Arts

Tarapolsi reported that Waters met with past Commissioner Rebecca LaBrunerie to discuss history and experiences of the Literary Arts Committee.

2. Winter Performance Series

Sambamurti reported on the 2005 Winter Performance Series status:

- Artist fees, and scheduling have been completed; contracts will be sent out on Monday.
- Rose Hill Junior High School has been booked as the venue for all three shows.
- A volunteer sign up sheet will be given to Commissioners at a later date. Family members of RAC who volunteer will be admitted to the show for free.

3. *Write Out Loud!* 2005 Sponsorship Recommendation

Laura Lee Bennett, President of Redmond Association of the Spoken Word (RASP), presented a proposal for the *Write Out Loud! 2005* event. She elaborated on RASP's three community projects:

- Monthly reading series
 - Currently looking for a guest curator for 2005.
 - Will hold a slam in December.
- *Write Out Loud!*
- Poets in the Park
 - Received a grant from the Breneman Jaech Foundation.
 - Friends of Marymoor Park offered Clise Mansion for the annual conference of poets.

Bennett explained the events, their successes, community involvement, marketing, etc. She has been in communication with Skillingstead regarding funding possibilities. RASP

is requesting funding from RAC to hire a marketing person for the event's publicity for 2005. Bennett noted that the Redmond Library, Borders Books, the Teen Center and Senior Center all want to participate again.

Bennett explained that RASP would prefer to take on the role of producer and to delegate the work to others, e.g., partner with SecondStory Repertory to be a keynote event. She asked Commissioners to give RASP "another chance" by supporting the event again next year.

4. Committee Meeting Report (E-mailed)

None

B. Funding/Marketing: Winter Performance Series

Sambamurti reported all publicity has been completed for the Winter Performance Series, including calendar entries for the 2005 State of Washington events web site, pictures in *Focus* Magazine and other City publications, flyers, and brochures (using the 2004 design). She reported the committee has received a commitment of \$750 in funding support from two community sponsors:

- \$500 from Kanishka Cuisine of India
- \$250 from Wells Fargo Bank

Sambamurti completed a project report for the Redmond Tourism Development on the recently completed summer Arts in the Parks series. The grant for the series was for \$2,000. Sambamurti will be attending the October 18-21, 2004, 24th annual Northwest Booking Conference in Bellevue, which will focus on performing arts.

C. New Business

None

D. Staff Reports

None

VII. Visual Arts

A. Project(s) Status

1. City Hall Artists Report

Renee Tanner from 4Culture (formerly King County Arts Commission) reported that this is the first year the organization is providing private consulting, and are helping with

Redmond's new City Hall art projects. Tanner announced the following artists have been selected for the new City Hall and garage projects:

- Ed Carpenter, artist for the City Hall façade and pool area glass art in front of City Council chambers
- Blue McRight/Warren Wagner, artist and architect for the parking garage east façade wall art

Tanner showed slides of sample artwork of the artists. She reported the garage art project is an \$80,000 commission (including construction credits). The City Hall art project has a \$165,000 art budget. Tanner offered this additional information:

- November 8, 2005 is the scheduled move-in date for the City Hall; the garage will be finished later.
- New landscaping around the garage is part of the plan with the artwork.
- Wright-Runstad will maintain the artwork as official owner of the building, which the City is leasing.
- Artwork will be part of the building (integrated art) in both locations.
- City Hall's art is a site-specific cultural piece.
- City Hall will have integrated glass in the wall, working with the pool and copper façade, and dealing with light.
- Schedule for the artist proposals (development and approval) will be in January 2005; Tanner will return to RAC to present the proposals.

McRight and Wagner would like to come to the Visual Arts Committee meeting on October 25, as they would like to learn what is important to Redmond as part of their research.

As a side-note, Tanner reported that a meeting would be held tomorrow for the York Street Bridge art project. Bids would go out in early spring 2005. Cliff Garten is the selected artist. It is a \$500,000 project, with a proposed two-year timeline. The design will come out next summer or early fall.

2. Redmond Outdoor Sculpture (ROS)

Tarapolsi reported on the grand opening of ROS, held October 18. In attendance were three City Council members, four Commissioners, and artists Thor Myhre, Brandon Zebold and Sherry Buckner and Lance Carleton who talked about their pieces.

A representative of Riverwalk Neighborhood Association will take the proposal to its association to consider sponsorship. Schmidt reported there is also a travel business in the Overlake Area who may be interested in sponsoring a sculpture piece. ***She will email the name of the business to Skillingstead.***

Schmidt presented a thank you gift to Tarapolsi for all her volunteer efforts in the ROS program.

3. Firefighter's Bench Update

Tarapolsi reported those in attendance for the Firefighter's bench dedication were several City Council members, Mayor Ives, former Commissioner Cara Byrne, Rotary Club members, Redmond firemen, and artist Michelle Van Slyke.

Tarapolsi noted that the tarp covering the bench unfortunately bled into it, leaving blue spots on the bench. She recommended that in the future, blue sheets would not be used over art pieces.

Skillingstead reported that Don Cairns, who worked with the transportation program, believed the utility box could be painted the same color as the bench. ***Skillingstead will confirm this with him.***

4. 2004 Annual Report (for 2005)

Commissioner Leban will be coordinating the development of the 2004 report.

5. Committee Meeting Report (E-mailed)

The Visual Arts Committee meeting was held October 2004 with these members present: Skillingstead, Tarapolsi, Schmidt, Leban, Innes, Teller, and Co-chair Houghton. The following points were covered:

- ROS:
 - Thank you notes should go out to finish up this years ROS.
 - Houghton's notes about the present situation were included for committee review only.
- Fireman's Bench Dedication: October 9, 2004 at 1:00 p.m.
 - It is also open house at the fire station that day.
 - Tarapolsi will present on RAC's behalf.
- Perrigo Park: Houghton will do a final report after plaques are up.
- Heritage Art Contest: Tarapolsi has stepped forward to help out the Redmond Historical Society with the contest.
- Student Art: All student art now hanging inside the present City Hall will be given to LWSD.
- Fibonacci: Needs to find a new permanent home due to construction of the new City Hall.
 - Leban will take on responsibility with Schmidt helping.
 - Possible location is the ORSCC.

- Andrew Carson: The committee needs to find three to five suitable sites for his piece on City property.
 - Leban will ask others for ideas and present them to Skillingstead for City approval, and then approach Andrew Carson for his approval of one site.
 - Schmidt will help.
- Dove Lady: City would rather we did not buy it over the next two budget cycles.
 - Need to find a suitable site within the new City Hall.
 - Skillingstead and Houghton will meet with the interior planners of the new City Hall and decide on whether there is a space for it, then go from there.
- Fat Tire: Lance Carleton would like to sell his piece to whomever to keep it at its site as part of ROS 2004.
 - Unfortunately we have committed all our acquisition funds at this time.
 - Tarapolsi will let him know.
- Catalog: Turn the present inventory of the City's collection into a catalog.
 - Innes and Leban stepped forward to take this on.
 - Possibly would add photos and put online.
 - Houghton will help out.
- VA Budget: Will talk to Sambamurti about having her teach Houghton how to do it.
- ORSCC Gallery:
 - Let's get a new name.
 - Houghton is sponsoring a contest; Houghton will bake something or make a soup, whichever the winner requests.
- Recycled Art Exhibit: Not possible; there are no resources available.
 - Another department within the City whose mandate is recycling could initiate it.
 - RAC would gladly help out where they could.
 - Houghton will inform the Mayor.
- Visual Arts Committee meeting date: Fourth Monday of the month.
- Art Walk:
 - Teller and Redmond Town Center were unsuccessful in contacting each other.
 - Teller had nothing to report on the success of the Art Walk during the Wednesday night concerts.
- Teen Center Gallery: Some equipment from the present City Hall may be provided to the Teen Center.
- Teen/Senior Art Show: Teen Center is interested; still need to pursue Senior Center.

B. Funding/Marketing

Tarapolsi reported that Houghton worked many hours on the tourism grant, which went in for \$15,000. However, it came back denied, so Skillingstead and Tarapolsi rewrote the

grant, concentrating on marketing brochures and ads and asking for \$13,000. Tarapolsi referenced Councilmember Nancy McCormick's email forwarded to Commissioners that supported some type of funding for ROS as a tourism enhancement activity for Redmond. The committee is rethinking this.

C. New Business

1. 2005 Volunteer Arts Awards Proposed Artist – Bill Ayers

Schmidt introduced Bill Ayers, glass artist, who she proposed for consideration as the 2005 Volunteer Arts Awards artist. She believed that, although the awards are not issued until June 2005, it was important to select the artist now so they may begin the process.

Bill Ayers introduced himself as a Redmond artist, who has a glass art studio where he teaches workshops and does commissioned artwork. He also does school programs and projects with glass art. His type of art is "fused art." Ayers showed samples of glass types that could be used for an award. He stated that he preferred he did not want information to be put on the glass art, rather, on a base or separate stand-alone plaque. The thickness, color, and glass would stand on its own. He would want to know what latitude he would have as to when/how information would be displayed. Commissioners were invited to view Ayer's web site at www.rattart.com. Skillingstead asked him to bring his idea for the award to the next meeting. He offered to bring either a rough drawing or a similar sample of his idea for the award at the next RAC meeting.

Motion for approval of Bill Ayers as the 2005 Volunteer Arts Awards artist by:
Commissioner Tarapolsi
Second by: Commissioner Schmidt

Discussion: Leban stated he did not believe it was appropriate to vote in Ayers presence in case there were other ideas. Commissioners agreed not to discuss or vote with the applicant present.

After Ayers' departure, Commissioners continued to discuss on the motion. Schmidt stated that in the past, selection deadline has been a factor in the process, but not in this case. Leban was opposed to the name not being attached to the piece. Tarapolsi agreed it was important to associate the award with the art piece. Schmidt noted that RAC does not have criteria for this. Smith was not comfortable with the vagueness of the description before voting; he would like to see a drawing.

Bettencourt asked if the Commission would like staff to do a call for artists. Teller agreed, stating there should be at least three choices. Tarapolsi differed, stating that

would require a selection committee, possibly making it more involved than necessary. Skillingstead reminded that the artists participating in the selection have always been invitational. Schmidt stated RAC may want to change the criteria. Tarapolsi suggested the Commission conditionally accept Ayers as the artist, and look at his next design. Skillingstead stated she would encourage him to attach the piece to a base with the City logo and other information.

Bettencourt asked how other artists could get involved in the process. Leban proposed including a permanent “call for artists” on the RAC web site. It would invite artists to submit their proposals and contact Skillingstead. Schmidt preferred not to add too many choices at this time. She favored sending Ayers the criteria to figure out how he could make it work with his piece.

Modification to the motion: “...and RAC will choose him based on conditions being met” by: Commissioner Schmidt

Motion carried: 7-0 unanimous

Schmidt will work with Skillingstead on a list of criteria and email to all for comment, then send the agreed upon criteria to Ayers.

2. New Name for ORSCC Gallery

Leban reported that Houghton will bake a dessert prize for the winner of the new ORSCC gallery name. *Commissioners may submit all entries/suggestions to Houghton.*

3. Redmond Historical Society Proposal

Tarapolsi reported that from Miguel Llanos sent her the Historical Society proposal that they are sending out. She is working with Llanos on this proposal.

D. Staff Reports

None

VIII. Arts Education/Grants

A. Project(s) Status

1. State PTSA

Smith reported Leban has agreed to participate in the PTSA, so the Arts Education Committee has applied to present at the State PTSA that will occur in May.

2. Intern Program

Smith met with Bettencourt to discuss RAC sponsoring arts education through the use of interns from local colleges to assist Skillingstead with RAC coordination and administration. Smith is in full support of this and is working with the City.

3. Arts Education Committee Members

Smith reported there is a need for more Arts Education Committee members. Schmidt recommended attracting members beyond Commissioners. Tarapolsi suggested asking docents to participate; however, Schmidt noted the docent programs need volunteers. She suggested students at Digipen may be an option. Leban asked that an email be sent suitable for forwarding to those ones Commissioners know who might be interested in serving on the committee.

4. Arts Education Diversity Workshop Funding – Michelle Alten

Skillingstead referenced an email from Michelle Alten, Exploring Diversity, explaining changes to the program: City of Bellevue would have 53 youth, Redmond would have only three. Under the basis of criteria for awarding the \$930 Arts Education Grant to her program, Commissioners agreed these changes were not acceptable. Skillingstead suggested to Alten that she could choose to re-apply next year with a new proposal. Alten could contact the Teen Center to serve on a smaller scale. *Houghton and Leban will bring a recommendation at the next meeting.*

5. Committee Meeting Report (E-mailed)

The Arts Education Committee met on September 27, 2004 with the following members present: Abbott Smith, Chair; Jill Schmidt; Melna Skillingstead. Items discussed:

- Reviewed donated Arts Education scrap file and suggested possible dispositions.
 - Best choice: Redmond Public Library
 - Smith is reviewing materials for merit prior to disposition.
- Discussed regular meeting nights not in conflict with other committees.
 - Solution: 3rd Mondays
 - Next Arts Education Committee meeting on 18 OCT 04, 7 PM.
- Discussed analyzing K-6 lesson plans to provide alternate materials lists and identifying exercises with linked materials lists. Tasks to be assigned at October meeting.
- Established a committee emphasis on pursuing community educational support that relies more on volunteer mobilization than financial resources.
- Items to be covered in October RAC meeting:
 - State PTSA presentation
 - Outreach efforts
 - Internships

B. Funding/Marketing

None

C. New Business

None

D. Youth Advocate Report

None

E. Staff Reports

None

IX. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

A. Discussion

1. RAC Retreat

Schmidt asked Commissioners to bring their calendars to the next meeting, and come prepared to plan for their RAC retreat, e.g., how much time should be devoted to each topic. *She asked staff to put this on November agenda.*

2. Next month's RAC meeting theme: Plastics

B. Correspondence:

None

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by: Commissioner Smith

Second by: Commissioner Tarapolsi

Motion carried: 7-0 unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Recording Secretary, Pam Maybee

NEXT REDMOND ARTS COMMISSION MEETING:

November 18, 2004

(Note change of date due to Veteran's Day holiday on second Thursday of November)

Old Redmond School House Community Center

7:00 p.m.

Redmond Arts Commission

Meeting: October 14, 2004

Audience Present

Please note: Information provided at this public meeting becomes part of the City's permanent record.

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE
William Ayers	6009 204 th Pl NE	868-0818
Renee Tanner	4Culture 506 2 nd Ave, #200 Seattle, 98104	296-8692
Laura Lee Bennett	President of RASP	